

## [Mrs. Chas. Gaston]

[?] Dup

### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Oct. 19, 1938 SUBJECT Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gaston

1. Name and address of informant Mrs. Chas. Gaston
2. Date and time of interview Sept. 5, 1938
3. Place of interview In her home in Ogallala, Nebr.
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house surroundings, etc. The modern front room of her home.

### FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Bessie Jollensten ADDRESS Ogallala, Nebr.

DATE Sept. 5, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Charles Gaston, Ogallala, Nebr.

Mr. Gaston was born May 2, 1859, at Saskatchewan, Canada, and came to Keith County in 1884.

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Mrs. Gaston was born Nov. 15, 1869 at La Port Indiana, coming with her people to Ogallala, Neb., in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Gaston were married at Grant Nebraska, 1888. The Gastons moved to Happy Hollow 2 miles south of Ogallala, where their six children were born, John Franklin in 1892, [?] Iver 1894, Katherine Marjria, 1896, Charles Adam, 1890 Kenneth Lloyd, 1902, and Diey Dorritt, 1906.

Mr. Gaston worked at a flour mill during the week, and went home to his /# homestead on Sunday,s Sundays, which they were holding down.

In 1906 the Gastons moved to Ogallala, on East 4th Street not occupied by the Pearls Beauty Shop. They ran a General merchandise store for twelve years, until they were burned out, in a fire caused by an oil stove in the Hotel across the street.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gaston are still living in their lovely home and in very good health. Mr. Gaston has been janitor at the court house 2 years, and still working there.

Their son John Franklin is in the painting business, while Kenneth, is a dentist, in Ogallala, and their daughter Katherine is married and lives near her mother.

Mrs. Gaston does not consider our depression serious; says she was here during the really hard times. One winter she related they had nothing to eat except turnips, and beef; the turnips were raised and the beef was donated by one of his neighbors, R. K. Lewis who had a bunch of Longhorns. Most every one managed to buy a keg of sorghum, and parched wheat for coffee. If you had potatoes, this was considered a real luxury, and you were supposed to call in the neighbors and have a celebration. This is an example of what Pioneer cooperation, and Western hospitality was. Some times families would go on chokecherry hunts to Ash Hollow, this trip took two days.

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Some times our relatives would send boxes of dried fruit from back east, which we ate without sweetening, and were glad to get them. We had to haul our water from near by springs, in a 50 gallon tank.

Says they used to make sheets, pillow cases, underwear, dishtowls, etc. out of their flour sacks, but despite these conditions the young people, seemed to have enjoyed themselves better than now as some people have too many luxuries to really appreciate them.

The Gastons left their farm 28 years ago to come to Ogallala to send their children to high school.